

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for responding to a current user command associated with one of a plurality of task/domains, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for storing cumulative feedback data gathered from multiple users during previous operations of the apparatus and segregated in accordance with the plurality of task/domains;
 - means for determining a current task/domain with which a current user command inputted by a user is associated;
 - means for determining a current response to the current user command based on a portion of the stored cumulative feedback data gathered from the multiple users that is associated with the current task/domain;
 - means for communicating to the user the current response; and
 - means for receiving from the user current feedback data regarding the current response,
- wherein the current feedback data is added to the portion of the stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain.

2. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the current task/domain determining means determines the current task/domain by asking the user.

3. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the current task/domain determining means determines the current task/domain by inferring the current user task/domain from at least one of past and current user behavior.

4. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,
a user command comprises one of a query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and
the current task/domain determining means determines which task/domain is currently intended by asking the user.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,
a user command comprises one of a query for one of a set of discovery searching task/domains and a signifier for one of a set of signifier mapping task/domains,
and

the current task/domain determining means determines which task/domain is currently intended by asking the user.

6. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,
a user command comprises one of a query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and
the current task/domain determining means determines which task/domain is currently intended by examining at least one of past and current user behavior.

7. (currently amended) A method for responding to a current user command associated with one of a plurality of task/domains, comprising:

determining a current task/domain with which a current user command inputted by a user is associated;

determining a current response to the current user command based on stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from previous iterations of the method and segregated in accordance with the plurality of task/domains;

communicating to the user the current response;

receiving from the user current feedback data regarding the current response; and

storing the current feedback data,
wherein the stored current feedback data is added to the stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain.

8. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the current task/domain is determined by asking the user.

9. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the current task/domain is determined by inferring the current task/domain from at least one of past and current user behavior.

10. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein:
the method is performed by an apparatus functioning as a server on a wide area network,
a user command comprises one of a query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and
the current task/domain is determined by asking the user.

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein:
the method is performed by an apparatus functioning as a server on a wide area network,
a user command comprises one of a query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and
the current task/domain is determined by examining at least one of past and current user behavior.

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing program code executable by a program-controlled apparatus, wherein the code is operable to cause the apparatus to:

determine a current task/domain with which a current user command inputted by a user is associated;

determine a current response to the current user command based on stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from previous iterations of the method and segregated in accordance with the plurality of task/domains;

communicate to the user the current response;

receive from the user current feedback data regarding the current response;

and

store the current feedback data,

wherein the stored current feedback data is added to the stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain.

13. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the current task/domain is determined by asking the user.

14. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the current task/domain is determined by inferring the current task/domain from at least one of past and current user behavior.

15. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein:

the apparatus functions as a server on a wide area network,
a user command comprises one of a query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and
the current task/domain is determined by asking the user.

16. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein:

the apparatus functions as a server on a wide area network,

a user command comprises one of a query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and

the current task/domain is determined by examining at least one of past and current user behavior.

17. (previously presented) An apparatus for responding to a current user command associated with one of a plurality of task/domains, the apparatus comprising:

a digital storage device that stores cumulative feedback data gathered during previous operations of the apparatus and segregated in accordance with the plurality of task/domains;

a first digital logic device that determines a current task/domain with which a current user command inputted by a user is associated;

a second digital logic device that determines a current response to the current user command based on a portion of the stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain;

a first communication interface that communicates to the user the current response; and

a second communication interface that receives from the user current feedback data regarding the current response,

wherein the current feedback data is added to the portion of the stored cumulative feedback data associated with the current task/domain.

18. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the first digital logic device determines the current task/domain by asking the user.

19. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the first digital logic device determines the current task/domain by inferring the current user task/domain from at least one of past and current user behavior.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein:
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,
a user command comprises one of a query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and
the first digital logic device determines which task/domain is currently intended by the user by asking the user.

21. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein:
the apparatus is a server on a wide area network,
a use command comprises one of a query for a discovery searching task/domain and a signifier for a signifier mapping task/domain, and
the first digital logic device determines which task/domain is currently intended by examining at least one of past and current user behavior.

Claims 22-38 (canceled)

39. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of task/domains corresponds to a category that the current user command is to be performed in.

40. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an objective of the current user command is determined from the current user command, and the determined objective is carried out within the current task/domain determined for the user command.

41. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of task/domains corresponds to a category that the current user command is to be performed in.

42. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

determining an objective of the current user command from the current user command; and

carrying out the determined objective within the current task/domain determined for the user command.

43. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from multiple users.

44. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the current of task/domain corresponds to a category that the current user command is to be performed in.

45. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the code is operable to cause the apparatus to:

determine an objective of the current user command from the current user command; and

carry out the determined objective within the current task/domain determined for the user command.

46. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from multiple users.

47. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of task/domains corresponds to a category that the current user command is to be performed in.

48. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein an objective of the current user command is determined from the current user command, and the determined objective is carried out within the current task/domain determined for the user command.

49. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the stored cumulative feedback data is gathered from multiple users.

Claims 50-57 (cancelled).

58. (previously presented) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the multiple users include the user that inputted the current user command.

Please add Claims 59-70:

59. (new) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the storage means includes a table, and the task/domain segregation is by order of storage in the table.

60. (new) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the cumulative feedback data is segregated for identified and unidentified task/domains.

61. (new) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the storage means includes a non-tabular data structure.

62. (new) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the cumulative feedback data is stored in a table, and the task/domain segregation is by order of storage in the table.

63. (new) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the cumulative feedback data is segregated for identified and unidentified task/domains.

64. (new) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the cumulative feedback data is stored in a non-tabular data structure.

65. (new) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the cumulative feedback data is stored in a table, and the task/domain segregation is by order of storage in the table.

66. (new) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the cumulative feedback data is segregated for identified and unidentified task/domains.

67. (new) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 12, wherein the cumulative feedback data is stored in a non-tabular data structure.

68. (new) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the digital storage device includes a table, and the task/domain segregation is by order of storage in the table.

69. (new) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the cumulative feedback data is segregated for identified and unidentified task/domains.

70. (new) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the digital storage device includes a non-tabular data structure.